

Appl. No. : 09/585,134
Filed : June 1, 2000

A. Claim Rejections – Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected Claims 10-12 and 14-16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,095,739. The Examiner asserts that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claimed subject matter is disclosed in Patent No. 6,095,739 and could have been claimed in the application that resulted in that patent.

Pursuant to Examiner's request, Applicants have submitted the enclosed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) which may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application.

New claims 17-43 have been added. These claims are believed similar in scope to those examined, and therefore, patentable over the art of record in view of the terminal disclaimer.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claim 10-12 and 14-16 be withdrawn and all claims be allowed.

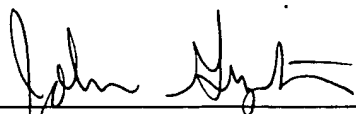
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain or require further clarification the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' counsel at the number indicated below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2/26/02

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

14. (Amended) A fastener and connector system, comprising:
a connector which is required by regulation to be used with fasteners having specified physical properties;
a first colored [coating] indicia on the connector, the first [coating] color indicia having been pre-selected to indicate the fasteners which regulation permits may be used with the connector;
a fastener having the specified properties; and
a second colored [coating] indicia on the fastener, the second [coating] color indicia having been pre-selected to define the specified physical properties.
15. (Amended) The fastener and connector system of Claim 14, wherein the first [coating] color indicia and the second [coating] color indicia are the same color.
16. (Amended) The fastener and connector system of Claim 14, wherein the first [coating] color indicia and the second [coating] color indicia may be different colors.

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